

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-10. (Cancelled)

Claim 11. (Currently Amended)

An optical communication device, comprising:

an optical communication path; and

a plurality of optical filtering elements coupled to said optical communication path, each of said plurality of filtering elements having a single optical interference filter that includes a plurality of alternating high and low refractive indices and has ~~with~~ two passbands, a first passband being configured to add/drop a plurality of optical signals, each of the optical signals being at a respective one of a plurality of wavelengths,

a second passband of said optical interference filter being configured to add/drop a service channel at a wavelength different than the plurality of wavelengths of the optical signals.

Claim 12. (Original)

An optical communication device in accordance with claim 11, wherein said optical communication path is a continuous optical communication path.

Claim 13. (Cancelled)

Claim 14. (Original)

An optical communication device, comprising:

an optical communication path, said optical communication path being configured to carry a plurality of optical signals, each at a respective one of a plurality of wavelengths, and a service channel optical signal at a wavelength different than said plurality of wavelengths; and

an optical interference filter coupled to said optical communication path, said optical interference filter including a plurality of alternating high and low refractive indices and being configured to select a grouping of said plurality of optical signals and said service channel optical signal.

Claim 15. (Currently Amended)

An optical communication device in accordance with claim 14, wherein said plurality of wavelengths are within a range of 1530nm to 1570nm, and said wavelength of said service channel optical signal being spectrally spaced from said plurality of wavelengths.

Claim 16. (Currently Amended)

An optical communication device in accordance with claim 15, wherein said wavelength of said service channel is substantially equal to 1310nm.

Claim 17. (Original)

An optical communication device in accordance with claim 15, wherein said wavelength of said service channel is within a range of and including 1625nm to 1650nm.

Claim 18. (Previously Presented)

The optical communication device of claim 11, wherein each of said plurality of optical signals corresponds to an optical payload channel, the optical payload channels being separated by a channel spacing.

Claim 19. (Previously Presented)

The optical communication device of claim 18, wherein the plurality of optical payload channels is comprised of six optical payload channels.

Claim 20. (Previously Presented)

The optical communication device of claim 19, wherein each of said six optical payload channels has a center wavelength within a range of 1530nm to 1570nm.

Claim 21. (Previously Presented)

The optical communication device of claim 11, wherein the service channel has a center wavelength within a range of 1625nm to 1650nm.

Claim 22. (Previously Presented)

The optical communication device of claim 11, wherein the service channel has a center wavelength of 1310nm.

Claim 23. (Previously Presented)

The optical communication device of claim 14, wherein said grouping of said plurality of optical signals is comprised of six payload channels.

Claim 24. (Previously Presented)

The optical communication device of claim 23, wherein the six payload channels are spaced apart by a predetermined channel spacing.